

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add a new paragraph to the Detailed Description of the Drawings on page 4, beginning at line 12 as follows:

Fig. 12 is a flow chart of operations of the system of Fig. 10.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 5, line 23 to page 6, line 6 with the following replacement paragraph:

The screen 10 contains an area 12 for entry of a user name and an area 14 for entry of a password. The name, which may be any sort of user ID, and the user password control access to the My Mail and the other services. The user ID may comprise, for example, the user's given name, an identifier assigned by the system or the user's e-mail address. The password is preferably chosen by the user him or herself, since that access to the personalized services is controlled by the user. An address area 16 displays the address of the site on the web to which the user is connected, that is, the site that is providing the desired services. The site is, for example, initially accessed in the usual manner, i.e., by entering the web address in a browser and pressing "return" on a keyboard, or by clicking on a link to the web address that is presented, e.g., on a website of the postal service or on some sort of other video display. "Button" 15 enables the user to register at the website for the My Mail or other services provided through what is referred to herein as the "Postport System." Button 14 13 in conjunction with a selection of a service from a list 18 allows the user to access the selected service.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 9, line 6 with the following replacement paragraph:

Through information contained in or accessible from the sender field 34d, an entry 32 may be further associated with one or more links to a sender company URL, to various associated mail-piece specific information, and/or to mechanisms through which the user can respond electronically to offers included in the mail piece, such as, for example, subscription offers. The user clicks on the information displayed in the sender field and is either directly connected by the links to, for example, a particular URL or, as discussed below with reference to Fig. 9, to other company information associated with the mail piece through the Postport system. Alternatively, as depicted in Fig. 4, the user may be presented with a screen 50 that includes a pull-down menu 52 of the various links.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 9, lines 21 - page 10, line 2 with the following replacement paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 6, a user may obtain a detailed view of a particular mail piece, for example, the City Electric bill, by highlighting the corresponding table entry 32 and clicking on the detail view listing in the sidebar 4442. The system then displays a screen 70, which may include a copy or facsimile 72 of the corresponding mail piece and a list 74 of mail piece particulars, namely, sender, date sent, date received, and relevant information, such as the amount of the bill. The user has options, delineated by buttons 76, of paying the bill now from his or her on-line account, paying later from the account at a specified or unspecified date, or setting a payment policy such as directing that a certain portion of the bill be paid now and the remaining portion of the bill be paid after, for example, the deposit of a paycheck into the user's account. Through the buttons, the

Postport system thus cross-links the mail piece information with the on-line account and payment information provided by, in the example, City Electric.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 10, beginning at line 14 with the following replacement paragraph:

Referring now to Fig. 7, the Postport system also provides personal tracking and tracing of mail pieces sent by the user. As depicted in screen 100, a table 128 includes entries 132 for the respective mail pieces that the user has sent. The user selects this table from a pull down menu (not shown) using arrow the 40 in menu bar 29. The table includes status, type and delivery fields 134a, 134b and 134c that are similar to the fields of the table 28 discussed above with reference to Fig. 43. The information for these fields may be supplied by the postal service or other delivery company when the mail piece is provided to them by the user. In the case of electronic mailings, such as on-line payments, the information may instead be supplied by the company that is the intended recipient.

Please replace the second and third paragraphs of specification page 14, beginning at line 13 with the following replacement paragraphs:

Referring still to Fig. 10 and also to Fig. 12, a user begins a postal transaction session from, for example, a remote node, or PC 174, by logging on to the Postport system using the assigned user ID and an associated password, as discussed above with reference to Figs 1 and 2 (step 1200). The user selects the Virtual Post Office services and conducts a postal transaction session in which the user enters mailing address information,

selects postage, and so forth in the appropriate data templates or wizards provided by the Postport system (step 1202). The user may then print mailing labels and/or postage from his or her home PC using the printer 186 and end the session (steps 1206, 1210, 1212). Alternatively, the user may continue the session (steps 1206, 1208) and later print the labels and/or postage at the postal station 176 or 178 through the various workstation nodes 180, 182 when he or she is dropping off the mail pieces for delivery through the postal service (steps 1214, 1216).

If the user continues the session, the Postport system retains the relevant postal transaction session information in a manner that is linked to the user's assigned user ID, as discussed below (step 1208). When the user later logs on to the Postport system from, for example, a terminal 188 at the postal station 176 using the assigned user ID, the system transfers the session to the terminal (step 1214). The user then continues to enter and/or edit the mailing address and postage information and/or print the labels and the postage before ending the session (step 1216).